(b) if so, the details thereof and steps proposed to be taken to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) The Tobacco Board has reported that the estimated production of tobacco in Andhra Pradesh is 132.50 Million Kgs. against an authorised crop of 83.08 Million Kgs. and in Karnataka the estimated production has been 36.00 Million Kgs. and authorised crop has been 29.50 Million Kgs. The prices fatched by the tobacco farmers in Karnataka in 1996-97 auctions have been very favourable.

(b) Some of the steps taken by the Tobacco Board to help the farmers are:—

(i) Opening of 3 additional auction platforms in Andhra Pradesh to facilitate the growers to seel their produce early.

(ii) Persuading the Indian Tobacco Association, Exporters, manufactuirers and other Traders to participate actively in the auctions to absorb the tobacco corp produced.

(iii) Negotiating with tobacco trade to declare a Minimum Guarantee price (MGP) for tobacco purchase which is higher than the Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by the Government.

(iv) Assisting the tobacco trade in obtaining larger quantum of credit from the financial institutions for making purchases of tobacco.

(v) Participating in trade fairs & exhibitions abroad and arranging buyer-seller meet to enhance tobacco exports.

Financial Loss to STC

903. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation has been suffereing heavy regular financial losses by selling soyabean crude oil at very low prices M/s. Laxmi Enterprises;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such financial losses are due to incompetency of officials of marketing department of STC;

(d) whether same soyabean crude oil can fetch very high price if sold after refining when refining facility is available with STC;

(e) whether Government propose to take some action for heavy losses suffered by STC so far;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) STC has intimated that the selling price for refined Soyabean Oil is marginally higher than Crude Soyabean Oil price. However, taking into consideration the expenses incurred in refining, quantity lost during refining, interest on blocked funds, the net realisation for Crude Soyabean Oil sold after refining would not necessarily be higher than the price of crude Soyabean Oil.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

Changes in Dumping Rules

904. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering appropriate changes in the dumping rules/laws and strengthening up of organizational set up to deal with the cases effectively and efficiently in the fast changing global secenario;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal finalised under consideration;

(c) the details of dumping cases registered/ unregistered and decided upon during the current year and action taken against the parties indulging in dumping; and

(d) the major cases of dumping still under investigation, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Anti-dumping Laws under the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1995 and the Rules made thereunder